II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS), said Web site using Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), said method comprising the steps of:

in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

issuing load balancing instructions to said NCS by passing said load balancing instructions to said NCS in a NCS-control HTTP header, including the steps of:

including directives that must be obeyed by said NCS; and

optionally, including a filter to limit a scope of application of said directives;

receiving said load balancing instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and

complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt,

wherein the any one server out of said plurality of individual servers is adapted to issue the load balancing instructions that ~~affect~~ apply to any of the plurality of individual servers.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said directives includes:

flow-control directives;

sharing directives; and

NCS-queuing directives.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein said flow-control directives include:

an increase-rate directive to require said NCS to increase a rate at which requests to said any one server are sent;

a decrease-rate directive to require said NCS to decrease a rate at which requests to said any one server are sent;

an increase-window directive to require said NCS to increase a number of jobs allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server; and

a decrease-window directive to require said NCS to decrease a number of jobs allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein said sharing directives include:

a share directive aimed at enabling an information sharing within all members of said plurality of individual servers and said NCS by depositing an HTTP header in the NCS that is added to all subsequent requests having a matching filter that are issued from the NCS to any server; and

a clear directive aimed at clearing a previous said information sharing.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein said NCS-queuing directives include:

a lock directive aimed at locking resources identified by said filter; and

an unlock directive aimed at releasing previously locked said resources.

7. (Currently Amended) A system, in particular a Network Control Scheduler (NCS) for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of individual servers, said Web site using Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), comprising:

means adapted for receiving load balancing instructions issued in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers, said load balancing instructions including directives that must be obeyed by said NCS; and a filter to limit a scope of application of said directives;

means adapted for complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt,

wherein the means for complying is adapted to comply with load balancing instructions that ~~affect~~ apply to a second server out of the plurality of individual servers.

8. (Currently Amended) In a network having a plurality of individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS) a computer readable medium for enhancing load controlling of a Web site that uses Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), comprising instructions for causing a computer system to perform the following steps:

in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

issuing load balancing instructions to said NCS by passing said load balancing instructions to said NCS in a NCS-control HTTP header, including the steps of:

including, in the NCS-control HTTP header, directives that must be obeyed by said NCS; and

including, in the NCS-control HTTP header, a filter to limit a scope of application of said directives;

receiving said load balancing instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and

complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt,

wherein the any one server out of said plurality of individual servers is adapted to issue the load balancing instructions that ~~affect~~ apply to any of the plurality of individual servers.

III. REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 7 and 8 have been amended. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Dutta *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,546,423 B1), hereafter "Dutta." Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dutta in view of Starnes *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,510,469 B1), hereafter "Starnes." Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dutta in view of Starnes and further in view of Pavan (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,943 B1), hereafter "Pavan." Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dutta in view of Starnes and Pavan and further in view of Millard (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0087282 A1), hereafter "Millard," and further in view of Subramanian *et al.* (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0194211 A1). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dutta in view of Starnes, Pavan, Millard and Subramanian and further in view of Colby *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,643 B1).